

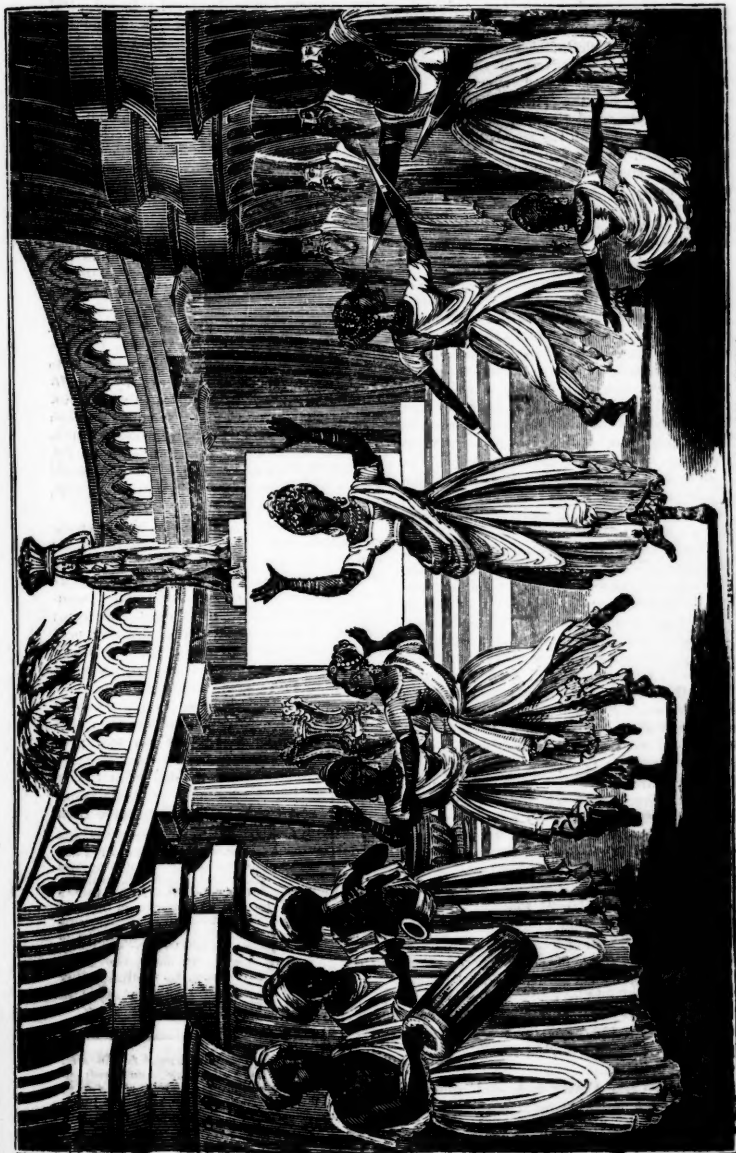
The Mirror

OF
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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[PRICE 2d.]



THE BAYADERES; OR DANCING GIRLS OF INDIA.

THE BAYADERES;

OR DANCING GIRLS OF INDIA.

As we have already given a full account of the habits, manners, and religious ceremonies of the Bayaderes, in the 25th volume of the *Mirror*, pp. 282, 283, 284, we shall only in this paper have to advert to the pleasing *artistes* since the period when that spirited caterer for the public's amusement, Mr. Yates, engaged them at an expense of £5,000, to appear on the boards of the Adelphi Theatre, in London. Accordingly, on Monday, October 1, 1838, they were presented to the British public, in a piece called *A Race for the Rarities; or the Bayaderes*; and were received, as they deserved to be, with the greatest applause. There are five females and three males in this company, forming a complete Indian ballet. The females dance to the sound of the instruments played by the men. Among the latter is the old *Ramalingon*, a Brahmin of the high caste, who plays the cymbals; the two others, named *Savarana* and *Devanayagon*, are young men, the first playing a cylindrical drum, and the other a kind of bamboo pipe, which produces the most melancholy sounds. These musicians are decorated with enormous ear-rings, and wear a sort of turban. The middle of their forehead is tattooed with a bright yellow; their body, arms, and feet, are naked, their principal dress being silk pantaloons, reaching to the ancle.

The females are five in number; *Saundirounn*, and *Rhangoun*, are two charming girls, of about fourteen years of age: their dark and sparkling eyes are very expressive, and their vivacity and joyous smiles extremely pleasing. The eldest female is named *Tille*; she is the high priestess, and is very devout and well-informed: her age is thirty; there is no trace of youth or beauty in her countenance: she is of the middle height; her look is grave and penetrating; and in her dance there is a sort of sadness which is difficult to describe: she has sworn to take back the four young dancers, committed to her care, pure from all Christian love. *Amany* is a married woman, and, as such, has a right to paint her teeth, and to wear rings on her feet. The wedding ring in India is always placed on the toe. *Amany* is eighteen; her features have something of the European character; her nose is aquiline, her mouth well formed, and her expressive smile is that of sweetness. The last of these interesting foreigners is the little *Veydoun*, an infant of six years of age. Their costume is exceedingly brilliant and picturesque: a golden zone surrounds their waist; their scarfs are wound round their busts, like the folds of a serpent, leaving the black, silky, and velvety skin visible between its folds; their arms are also decorated with bracelets of extraordinary form and colours; and their feet are naked. Their shoulders and breasts are covered with silken tissus.

Their long raven hair is plaited from the top of the head, and hangs down over their shoulders, after the manner of the Swiss; a cap, composed of brilliant and polished metal, is placed on the top of the head, and they have an ornament in the form of a heart round their neck. They wear two pair of costly ear-rings, and their noses are also decorated in the like manner. Their teeth are of exquisite whiteness, very even, and contrast admirably with their dark skins. They wear a string of bells just above their ancles, the sound of which mingles with the steps of their dance.

The following are their performances:—*Veydoun* dances a *pas-seul*, the "Salute to the Rajah:" this little fairy trips with a vivacity that augurs well for her future performances.

The "Hindoo's Lament," was danced by *Amany*.

The "Robing of Vishnu,"* by *Saundirounn* and *Rhangoun*.

The "Hindoo Widow's Excitement to Death!" or the Dagger Dance, by *Saundirounn* and *Rhangoun*; this is of a slow movement, expressive of the peculiar feelings which may be supposed to influence the imagination of a victim of Sutte. Lastly, "The Malapou, or Love, or Delightful Dance," by *Saundirounn*, *Rhangoun*, *Amany*, and *Tille*.

The whole is a very curious and characteristic exhibition of the Indian national manners; and are certainly different from any thing we are accustomed to see on the stage. It would be difficult to describe the steps, evolutions, and peculiar expression of the dancers; they show the passions of an impulsive people, at the same time depicting, with much truth, their feelings and desires; they must be seen by those who wish to judge of their extraordinary performances. Nothing can be more free from anything indelicate than this exhibition, which will please all, and give offence to none.

These dancers are all wedded to their deity—i. e. to the Brahmin priesthood, being attendants† on a pagoda. They come from Tirouvendi, a small town near Pondicherry.

* *VISHNU*, or *Peshnoo*, with the deities *SIVA* and *BRAMMA*, form the triple divinities. But it must be remembered, that the learned Indians, in truth, acknowledge only the Supreme Being; they believe his essence to be essentially removed from the comprehension of any mind but his own; and they suppose him to manifest his power by the operation of his Divine Spirit, whom they call *VISHNU*, the *Preserver*; when they consider the Divine Power exerted in creating, or giving existence, they call the deity *BRAMMA*; and when they view him in the light of a *Destroyer*, or *changer of forms*, they give him the name of *SIVA*.

† The origin of this custom is this:—When a woman has made a vow for the purpose of having children, if she brings into the world a pretty daughter, she carries it to the idol she adores, and these children are devoted to this profession by their parents; and, when they grow up in it, they are called *Devadasi*, or female slaves of the idol, or attendants on a pagoda.

THE MINSTREL.

A SCOTTISH SONG.

Air—*Wandering Willie.*

Flow thou dark Cona,* 'mang mountainsae gloomy,
Great Malmor's blue heights o'er shadows thy
stream,

And Glenco's bleak bosom spreads horror around me,
Like a tomb in a desert, tow'ring the sad scene.
'Mist' you ruins grey, the howlett reposing,
As the lone eagle woo's the drearile wild;
Yet welcome to me the birth-place of Ossian,
Thou son of great Fingal—Nature's great child!

May Scotia's bright genius see thy shade straying,
In Fancy's keen eye o'er the barren heath,
And on thy white head Fame grandly displaying
Bright honours immortal, enwiv'd in a wreath:
For sweet are thy songs of fair Eivir Allen,
And Oscar in war soft harmony glide,
And, oh! how thou sang of Malvina, so charming,
Choice bard of the wilderness—Caledon's pride!
Thus sang a minstrel at the fa' of the gloomins,
While low in the ocean lay cradled the sun,
From his harp so bold, soft music was flowing,
From echo to echo the melody run.
The chief of the hills, by sounds so enchanting,
With ladies so fair came tripping along:
The wild flow'rs they gather'd, and deck'd the bleak
mountain,

Where Ossian, brave Ossian! pour'd his natal song!
PETER CUMMINS.

BEAUTY AND UTILITY.

BETIDE the ocean stood an aged man,
Where the young moon in rosiest hue was break-
ing;

And, though his heart was old, he was partaking
Of gladness, such as all may know who scan,
And love the wisdom of sweet Nature's plan:
He stood; and, whilst the new-fledged birds were
waking

Their simple anthems, his glad soul was slaking
Its thirst for joy—which like a river ran.
Before his eyes beheld this glorious scene!
Sorrow within his breast had found a home;
But the glad earth, with sky-euicled dome,
Had still'd his woes as though they had not been:
Thus all declared—the earth, the sky, and sea,—
Where Beauty dwells, there dwells Utility!

E. J. HYRN.

THE OAK-TREE.

ON! lay not low the green oak-tree,
Beneath whose boughs my childhood play'd;
For dear to all must ever be,
Its foliage fresh—its cooling shade;
Which yet is full and fair to view,
As when the landscape first I knew.

Full many a change the years have brought,
That since have pass'd 'mid sun and rain;
And brows are clouded o'er with thought,
And eyes, once glad, are dimm'd by pain;
And voices then so full of mirth,
Have perish'd from this bright green earth.

And yet thou art unchang'd, fair tree!
The stormy winds have o'er thee driven;
And still thy verdant canopy
Is freshen'd by the dew of heaven;
And now in youth and beauty's prime
Thou standest, all unmark'd by time.

More years may pass o'er thee and me,
And see me laid beneath the ground,
While thou, a young and beauteous tree,
Shall spread thy knotty branches round;
And oft the child shall seek the flower
That blooms beneath thine ample bower.

* Supposed to be the birth-place of Ossian.

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But thou, at length, must droop and die,
And yield thy beauty to decay;
And that which now delights the eye,
Must from the landscape pass away;
And man alone of all can be
The heir of long eternity.

The Field, the Garden, and the Woodland.

The Drama.

A BRIEF NOTICE OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ENGLAND.

WILLIAM STEPHANIDES, or Fitz Stephen, a monk of Canterbury, who died during the reign of Richard the First, in the year 1191, wrote as follows in his *Descriptio Nobilissimæ Civitatis Londoniæ*:—"London, instead of common interludes belonging to the theatre, has plays of a more holy subject: representations of those miracles which the holy confessors wrought, or of the sufferings wherein the glorious constancy of the martyrs did appear." And as this writer does not mention these representations as novelties to the people—for he is describing all the common diversions then in use at that time—we can hardly fix them lower than the Conquest; and this, we believe, is an earlier date than any other nation of Europe can produce for their theatrical representations. In the reign of Edward III., about 140 years after this, it was ordained by Act of Parliament, that a company of men, called vagrants, who had made masquerades through the whole city, should be whipt out of London, because they represented scandalous things in the little ale-houses, and other places where the populace assembled. What the nature of these scandalous things were, we are not told; whether lewd and obscene, or impious and profane; but we should rather think the former, for the word masquerade has an ill sound, and we believe they were no better in their infancy than at present. It is true, the mysteries of religion were, soon after the period above alluded to, made very free with all over Europe, being represented in so stupid and ridiculous a manner, that the stories of the New Testament, in particular, were thought to encourage libertinism and infidelity. In all probability, therefore, the actors, in those representations, were of that species called Mummers, they were wont to stroll about the country, dressed in an antic manner, dancing, mimicking, and cutting figures. This custom is still continued in many parts of England; but it was formerly so general, and drew the common people so much from their business, that it was deemed a very pernicious custom: and as these Mummers always went masked and disguised, they were but too frequently encouraged to commit violent outrages, and were guilty of many disorders. However, as

bad as they were, they seem to be the true original comedians of England; and their excellence altogether consisted, as that of their successors does in part still, in mimicry and humour.

In an Act of Parliament, made in the fourth year of Henry IV., mention is made of certain wasters, master-rimours, minstrels, and other vagabonds, who infested "the land of Wales;" and it is enacted—"that no master-rimour, minstrel, or other vagabond, be in anywise sustained in the land of Wales, to make commoths and gatherings upon the people there." What these master-rimours were, who were so troublesome in Wales in particular, we cannot tell: possibly they might be the degenerate descendants of the ancient bards. It is also difficult to determine what is meant by making commoths. The word signifies, in Welsh, any district, or part of a hundred, containing about one-half of it—viz., about fifty villages; and might possibly be made use of by these master-rimours when they had fixed upon a place to act in, and gave information thereof for ten or twelve miles round, which is a circuit that will take in about fifty villages. And that this was commonly done, appears from "Carew's Survey of Cornwall," which was written in Queen Elizabeth's time. Speaking of the diversions of the people, "The Guary Miracle," says he, "in English a miracle-play, is a kind of interlude compiled in Cornish, out of some Scripture history. For representing it, they raise an amphitheatre in some open field, having the diameter of its inclosed plain some forty or fifty feet. The country people flock from all sides, many miles off, to see and hear it; for they have therein devils and devices, to delight as well the eye as the ear." Mr. Carew has not mentioned the time when these "Guary Miracles" were exhibited in Cornwall; but it is very probable that the custom is exceedingly ancient. Bishop Bale wrote a *Mysterie*, in 1538, entitled, "God Hys Promises—a tragedie or interlude, manifestynge the chyefe promises of God unto man in all ages, from the begynnyng of the world, to the death of Jesus Christe." It was acted by the youths, upon a Sunday, at the Market Cross, at Kilkenny. Baker, in his 'Biographia Dramatica,' says it is the first dramatic piece printed in England. It was printed by Charlewood, in 1577.

The representations of Mysteries in England, are first mentioned in 1378—at least this is the earliest date we can find. In this year the scholars of St. Paul's school presented a petition to Richard II., praying his Majesty "to prohibit some unexpert people from presenting the history of the Old Testament, to the great prejudice of the said clergy, who have been at great expense in order to represent it at Christmas." About

twelve years afterwards, viz., in 1390, the parish clerks of London are said to have played interludes at Skinner's Well, July the 18th, 19th, and 20th. And again, in 1409, the tenth year of Henry IV., they acted at Clerkenwell (which took its name from this custom of the parish clerks acting plays there) for eight days in succession, a play concerning the creation of the world. These instances are sufficient to prove that we had the Mysteries here very early. How long they continued to be exhibited amongst us, cannot be exactly determined. This period may justly be called the dead sleep of the Muses, from which they did not awake thoroughly until a considerable time afterwards. A species of play called the *Moralities* was invented after the *Mysteries*. The latter only represented some miraculous history of the Old or New Testament in a confused manner, with jumbled ideas without much meaning; whilst in the former a design appeared, accompanied with a fable and a moral; there was also something of poetry united with them, and virtues and vices, and the affections of the mind, were personified. However, the *Moralities* were also very frequently wholly concerned in religious matters; for religion was then every body's care, and it was no wonder if each party employed all arts to promote it. Were *Moralities* written now, doubtless they would turn much on politics. In the more early days of the Reformation, it was so common for the partisans of the old doctrine (and perhaps also of the new), to defend and illustrate their tenets this way, that in the 24th of Henry VIII., in an Act of Parliament made for promoting true religion, we find a clause, restraining all rimers, or players, from singing in songs, or playing in interludes, anything that should contradict the established doctrines. It was likewise customary to act these moral and religious dramas in private houses, for the edification and improvement, as well as the diversion, of well-disposed families; and for this purpose the appearance of the persons of the drama were so disposed, as that five or six actors might represent twenty characters.

(To be continued.)

RESOURCES OF SWITZERLAND.

As the commercial relations, industry, and high example of wisdom in the adoption and support of a liberal commercial policy pursued by the cantons of Appenzell, Neuchâtel, Thurgovia, Schaffhausen, Basil, Zurich, Argovia, Genoa, and Vaud in Switzerland, must at all times be deemed objects of considerable interest to England, and worthy of great attention and study, but more particularly at the present moment, we have selected the following papers, from a voluminous Report made to Parliament on the Commerce and Manufac-

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tures of that country by Dr. Bowring, possessing even more than a temporary interest. The geographical position of Switzerland with regard to commerce (especially beyond seas) is the most unfortunate in Europe. The country being thickly studded with and surrounded by the highest mountains, offers the greatest obstacles even to ordinary communications, and scarcely permits any hopes of canals or railroads. Its soil is barren and unsuitable to a variety of cultivation. The mountains yield but little metal. It fetches from abroad the most of its food, metals raw and worked, machines and tools, all the raw material for its manufactures, even the coals used in the foundries. In every warehouse, in every shop in the land, English and French goods are exhibited by the side of theirs. The former have paid no duties; the latter have had no protection. Insignificant as were their early attempts, and confined as were their markets, their government denying them a helping hand, forcing the Swiss to shift for themselves; and in spite of the tremendous rivalry of British capital and French taste, this intelligent, virtuous, brave, and persevering people have succeeded. Despite every obstacle, weak as they are, without a single port or means of outlet, except such as are held at the good pleasure of their neighbours, their articles have found their way, and meet with a ready sale in the four quarters of the globe. Take the following history of

WATCH-MAKING IN SWITZERLAND.

One of the largest and most interesting branches of Swiss industry is the watch-making trade. It is carried on to an immense and still increasing extent in the mountainous districts of Neuchatel, in the French portion of the canton of Berne, and in the town and neighbourhood of Geneva. It has been a source of wealth and comfort to many thousands of the inhabitants, who, in the seldom-visited villages of the Jura, have gathered around them a large portion of the enjoyments of life. Switzerland has long furnished the markets of France; and, though the names of certain French watch-makers have obtained a European celebrity, yet I was informed by M. Arago, that an examination into this trade had elicited the fact, that not ten watches were made in Paris in the course of a year, the immense consumption of France being furnished from Switzerland, and the Swiss works being only examined and rectified (*repassees*) by the French manufacturers.

The Jura mountains have been the cradle of much celebrity in the mechanical arts, particularly in those more exquisite productions of which a minute complication is the peculiar character. During the winter, which lasts from six to seven months, the inhabitants are, as it were, imprisoned in their dwellings, and occupied in those works

which require the utmost development of skilful ingenuity. Nearly 120,000 watches are produced annually in the elevated regions of Neuchatel. In Switzerland, the most remarkable of the French watch-makers, and among them one who has lately obtained the gold medal at Paris, for his beautiful watch movements, had their birth and education; and a sort of honourable distinction attaches to the watch-making trade. The horologists consider themselves as belonging to a nobler profession than ordinary mechanics, and do not willingly allow their children to marry into what they consider the inferior classes.

As early as the seventeenth century, some workmen had constructed wooden clocks with weights, after the model of the parish clock which was placed in the church of Locle, in the year 1630. But no idea had been as yet conceived of making clocks with springs. It was only about the latter end of the same century that an inhabitant of these mountains, having returned, from a long voyage, brought back with him a watch, an object which was till that time unknown in the country. Being obliged to have his watch repaired, he carried it to a mechanic named Richard, who had the reputation of being a skilful workman. Richard succeeded in repairing the watch, and, having attentively examined its mechanism, conceived the idea of constructing a similar article. By dint of labour and of perseverance he at length succeeded, though not without having had great difficulties to surmount, as he was compelled to construct all the different movements of the watch, and even to manufacture some ill-finished tools in order to assist him in his labours.

When this undertaking was completed it created a great sensation in the country, and excited the emulation of several men of genius to imitate the example of their fellow-citizen, and thus, very fortunately, the art of watch-making was gradually introduced among our mountains, whose inhabitants had hitherto exercised no other trade or profession than those which were strictly necessary to their daily wants, their time being principally employed in cultivating an ungrateful and unproductive soil. Our mountaineers were frequently compelled, before the introduction of the above-named branch of industry, to seek for work during the summer months among the populations of the surrounding country. They rejoined their families in the winter, being enabled from their economical savings, the moderation of their wants, and the produce of a small portion of land, to supply themselves with the necessaries of life.

During the first forty or fifty years a few workmen only were employed in watch-making, and, owing to the numberless difficulties they had to surmount, to the slowness

of execution caused by the absence of convenient tools, the want of proper materials, &c., the productions and profits were inconsiderable. They began at length to procure the articles of which they stood in need from Geneva, and afterwards from England, but the high prices which these articles cost, induced many of our workmen to attempt to provide them for themselves. They not only thus succeeded in rivaling foreign tools, but they eventually introduced many superior ones, till then unknown.

It is not more than eighty or ninety years since a few merchants began to collect together small parcels of watches, in order to sell them in foreign markets. The success which attended these speculations induced and encouraged the population of these countries to devote themselves still more to the production of articles of ready sale; so much so, that very nearly the whole population has, with a very few exceptions, embraced the watch-making trade. Meanwhile the population has increased three-fold, independently of the great number of workmen who are established in almost all the towns of Europe, in the United States of America, and even in the East Indies and China. It is from this period also that dates the change which has taken place in the country of Neuchâtel, where, notwithstanding the barrenness of the soil, and the severity of the climate, beautiful and well-built villages are everywhere to be seen, connected by easy communications, together with a very considerable and industrious population, in the enjoyment, if not of great fortunes, at least of a happy and easy independence.

The number of watches manufactured annually in this canton may be calculated to be from 100,000 to 120,000, of which about 35,000 are in gold, and the rest in silver. Now supposing the first, on an average, to be worth 150 fr., and the others 20 fr., it would represent a capital of nearly seven millions, without taking into consideration the sale of clocks, and instruments for watch-making, the amount of which is very large.

The trade of clock and watch-making is of considerable antiquity in Geneva. In the ninth century clocks were first known there, and it is believed the art of manufacturing them was imported from Germany. The bell, or sounding part of the machine, was added some time after; and in the eleventh century clocks were not uncommon. Chimes were a later invention, and, as the machinery by which time is measured became more complete and minute, watches were the necessary result. In 1587, Charles Cusin, of Autun, in Burgundy, settled in Geneva, as a manufacturer of watches, which were then sold for their weight in gold. He had many scholars, and his success naturally drew labour from less profitable employment, and spread the watch making trade very rapidly.

The manufacture of repeating-watches led, as has been observed, to another species of industry. Attention to the various tones of the metal,—and it may be added, the education of the people in the science of harmony—soon connected music with machinery; and musical rings, seals, watches, and boxes, were produced in considerable numbers,—the first experiments having been costly, but practice so reduced the price as to create a large market, and still leave a considerable profit. Out of the success of this new branch of manufacture others grew—musical automata of various characters—some combining great perfection of motion with external beauty and perfect harmony, concentrated in an exceedingly small space.

The great advantage which the Swiss possess in competition with the watch-makers in England, is the low price at which they can produce the flat cylinder watches, which are at the present time much in request. The watch-makers of Great Britain buy largely both in Geneva and Neuchâtel, and scarcely a single watch pays the duty of 25 per cent., because the risk of clandestine introduction is small. The average annual export to England is from 8,000 to 10,000 watches, and the average price about £10 sterling.

The watches of English manufacture do not come into competition with those of Swiss production, which are used for different purposes, and by a different class of persons. Notwithstanding all the risks and charges, the sale of Swiss watches is large, and it has not really injured the English watch-making trade. The English watches are far more solid in construction, fitter for service, and especially in countries where no good watch-makers are to be found, as the Swiss watches require delicate treatment.

English watches, therefore, are sold to the purchaser who can pay a high price; the Swiss watches supply the classes to whom a costly watch is inaccessible.—*Dr. Bowring's Report.*

OUR NATIONAL LITERATURE.

No. II.

(For the Mirror.)

FROM the degradation of Europe in the Middle Ages, we now follow the progress of improvement, as it relates to the revival of taste and learning in Europe; and more especially in this country. Under the third Edward, the father of his people, commerce became the object of the fostering regard both of the King and Parliament. In consequence of the discontent of some of the manufactures of Flanders, Edward invited them over to settle in his dominions. The trade in English wool increased; the intercourse of nations; and the reciprocation of

mutual industry, was the obvious consequence. England, in her insular situation, with her excellent soil, and (even now) admirable constitution, soon passed from rude simplicity to progressive refinement. But the seeds of a mighty revolution were appearing on the surface of Society. The principles of religious Reformation introduced by the Lollards and followers of Huss, propagated in England by the venerable Wickliffe, promised the greatest change in national character and manners. In the eleventh century that wild enthusiasm which carried hundreds of thousands from west to east, occurred, to prosecute, what was mis-called, a Holy War. Gibbon, in tracing the effects of the Crusades, considers that they tended to diffuse a knowledge of the Latin tongue, by the intercourse between Constantinople and Italy; and that, consequently, several of the Fathers and of the Classic authors were at length honoured with a Greek version. Of these enthusiasts, those who returned, having conversed with the magnificent races of people they had encountered in the East, began to entertain some taste for a refined mode of life. The Institution of Chivalry, and the sense of honour which it propagated, induced the progressive refinement observable in the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries. Various points of consideration are, in this hurried glance, omitted, which might tend to elucidate the exercise of the renewed energies of learning and genius. Let us briefly notice the cultivation of the *new languages* which sprang from the original Latin stock. A class of men appeared in France, whose fame, as Hallam observes, "depends more on the darkness of the preceding ages than on their own positive excellence;" whose productions had a permanent influence on the state of European literature. These were the Troubadours. They were versifiers of language; and confined themselves principally to subjects of love, and keen spirited satire. Their poetry is of a class allied to music; and with a flexible language, they invented a variety of metrical arrangement perfectly new to Europe. Metrical compositions, are, in general, the first literature of a nation; as, instance at the time we are now writing of, the northern French poetry, and the poems of the Normans. Simultaneously, as it were, the Spaniards, the French, and the Italians, cultivated their respective languages. In the last country a mighty genius arose, destined as the Father of the Literature of the Dark Ages. This was DANTE. Dante created the poetry of his country. His command of language was unbounded; none ever excelled him in conciseness; and no genius was more unquestionably original than his. In the same age and nation sprang the celebrated PETRARCH, whose command of language, correctness of

style, and exquisite diction, made him likewise the boast of his time and country. Dante prepared by his writings a taste for poetry and elegant composition; under Petrarch the public mind ascended to a pitch of enthusiastic admiration; and on the same day he received from the Roman Senate and the University of Paris, letters, soliciting his presence to crown him with laurel. This ceremony, which had formerly been practised in Greece, and at the Capitole games at Rome, was revived for Petrarch; and his coronation in the Capitol announced the coming to life again of that spirit which had long slept in the pulses of Italy; the days of a golden morning for Europe and the world! As if this sleep should be compensated by a reaction, another genius arose, in the person of BOCCACCIO, to whom ancient classical and modern elegant literature are equally under deep obligations. His Decameron is amongst the most perfect models of Italian composition; and what Italy owed Petrarch for poetry, she was indebted in an equal degree to Boccaccio for Tuscan prose. Thus prose and poetry were rapidly brought to perfection; at least to a degree which has not been surpassed, by these great masters.

Men awoke to a sense of their wants, once the clouds of barbarous ignorance were dispelled. Genius, in Italy, resolutely bent on action, passed at once the *medium*, and pressed on to that irregular magnificence and fantastic grandeur which it would be in vain to achieve by the slow process of preparation and refinement.

Indeed, it is remarkable that poetry, unlike other arts, arrives at maturity at once. Homer had no pre-existing model; neither had Dante. Our own immortal Shakespeare vaulted into renown in an age when to read and to write were no common accomplishments.

H. I.

Arts and Sciences.

MR. HAMPTON'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PARACHUTE DESCENT.

THE following is Mr. Hampton's letter to the editor of a country journal:—

Cheltenham, Wednesday Evening,
Oct. 3, 1838.

This has been one of the happiest days of my life, though it was upon the commencement of the morning one of the most miserable, inasmuch as I apprehended that the public would condemn me in some degree for having compromised myself in the contract I had undertaken to fulfil, and which would have been carried out to the fullest extent, agreeably to my original announcement, only that a certain portion of humane friends (?), having more sympathy for my personal safety than I had myself, unfortunately frustrated, as they considered, my design; but aware as

I was that my future fame depended upon the act of this day, my mind was resolutely fixed upon carrying out my determination; and I therefore confided my plan to my only friend, Mr. Grenville Fletcher, and by his assistance and judicious directions, previous to my leaving the Montpellier-gardens, the necessary arrangements proposed by ourselves were made effective. If I have forfeited my honour with Mr. Spinney, I here most gladly claim his forgiveness; when he considers the motive which led me to the final act, and the stake I had in the hands of the public, I am certain I need not apologize further.

After leaving the earth my sensations were of the most delightful kind. The evening turned out very propitious, and my satisfaction in having reduced one of the most novel and extraordinary exhibitions, which have been for many years a matter of considerable doubt with the most celebrated aeronauts, to a perfect safety, must be to me, and to every admirer of aerostation, a very gratifying result. At the altitude of about 9,000 feet I cast my eye to the different portions of my apparatus, and finding everything as I considered perfect, my mind was made up for the awful moment—that it was an awful moment, no one, be he whosoever he may, or possessing the most cast-iron nerve, cannot but acknowledge that in such a situation, a struggle, as it were, between life and death, must have been of no very temporary description. However, my nerves were, thank Providence, perfectly collected and firm; and armed as I was with a good weapon, I hesitated not, but applied my knife to the only cord which held me between Heaven and the vast abyss beneath me. The effort was momentary—my balloon ascended from me immediately after the separation for some hundred feet, and with a terrific noise rushed through the atmosphere, and in the space of a few seconds only burst over my head with the violence of a thunderbolt—but I was pleased to find, in unison with my original plan, collapsed, and reached the earth before I did myself. My descent was of the most gradual and progressive description, my sense of danger being wholly divested, being convinced from the very easy and strictly perpendicular line that I found myself approaching *terra firma*, and that any degree of doubt as to my safety was not for a moment questionable. Indeed, so far from a supposed violent rate of velocity having taken place during the descent, at various times the parachute was almost stationary, and had it not been that a safety-bag, containing about 30lb. of ballast, attached to my car (an appendage usually adopted by all aeronauts, by way of breaking the fall, as it may be termed in plain language,) hastened my power of descent, I must have reached the ground under the most perfect quiet and pleasing gravity, as

the time from my separating the cord to reaching the earth was only thirteen minutes, being then at a distance of one mile and a quarter in altitude.

To be brief, therefore, my descent was most gratifying to myself. The first announcement of my being safe again on "my parent earth," was given by the presence of a sheep, who was very quietly surveying me, and in the most perfect calmness, consoling me, as it were, upon my safe arrival. My friends having reached me, I was not long in obtaining a necessary conveyance, which once more brought me to the locality of that spot in safety which one hour previous I had quitted under so many terrific and doubtful circumstances.

Remaining, with much gratitude, yours,
very respectfully, JOHN HAMPTON.

CULTIVATION OF THE VINE.

EVERY country is distinguished by some peculiar modes, a comparison of which with those of a corresponding nature in other countries, especially in matters apparently admitting of but little variety, often affords amusement and instruction. In illustration of this remark may be cited the characteristic salutations of different nations, the various modes of dressing the hair, and the dissimilar pronunciation of the same letter. The cultivation of the vine affords another example. In our own country it is suffered to expand itself to any size, and nailed in regular lines to the wall or frame of a greenhouse; thus a single tree will produce several hundred weight of grapes. On the banks of the Rhine the growth is limited to four feet in height, and each tree is supported in an upright position. In France it is formed into arches and ornamental alcoves. In Sardinia it assumes the aspect of a parasitical plant, luxuriating among the branches of the largest forest trees, and clasping with its tendrils the extreme twigs. In Asia Minor, its wild festoons hang their green and purple pendants from rural bowers of trelliswork. On the heights of Lebanon it lies in a state of humiliation, covering the ground like the cucurbit; and subsequently we saw it in the valley of Eschol, in a position different from all that have been named. There, three vines planted close together, and cut off at a height of five feet, meet in the apex of a cone formed by their stems; where, being tied, each is supported by two others, and thus enabled to sustain the prodigious clusters for which that region has always been famous—clusters so large that, to carry one, the spies of Moses were compelled to place it on a stick borne by two men. Each mode is, doubtless, the best that could be adopted in the quarter where it prevails, considering the nature of the soil and climate, the value of the land, and the object of the cultivator.—*Elliott's Travels.*

MODEL OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

LIEUT. W. SIBORN'S truly unique Model of the Field of Waterloo, has just been opened for public exhibition at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. It covers a space of 490 square feet, being in the proportion of nine feet to a mile. "The time chosen," says Lieut. Siborn, in his pamphlet, sold at the exhibition-room, "is that in which Napoleon made his last great struggle for victory. The battle had already lasted eight hours, and the result still trembled in the balance. The steady, resolute, and unshaken front presented by the allied army under the Duke of Wellington, notwithstanding the most determined efforts so repeatedly made to force the line of battle, rendered it imperative on Napoleon to resort to one of two alternatives—that of commencing a retreat, or to make another desperate attempt to break the Duke's line, and establish his left on the allied position; and at the same time to maintain a firm stand against the Prussian advance on his right. Napoleon resolved to bring up his twelve battalions of infantry of the Imperial Guard, being the only reserve at his disposal; and with these forces he determined to force the Duke of Wellington's position. This was Napoleon's 'sole and last reserve.'"

Every part of the plain on which this memorable battle was fought, is so represented, as to give the spectator a correct idea of its appearance on the 18th of June, 1815. The fields of grass and standing corn, woods, vineyards, gardens, hedges, trees, lands lying fallow, &c., also the churches, houses, and villages, are all minutely modeled with surprising fidelity. The fire and smoke are imitated by means of tinsel metal and fine wool or flock, so that the eye of the spectator is at once directed to the important points of the battle. Notwithstanding the great number of figures, (190,000,) they are accurately modeled, the British, French, and Prussians being all in their respective national uniforms, and easily distinguishable from each other. The artillery, light troops, cuirassiers, and lancers, are easily identified; and the whole so admirably grouped as to add extraordinary animation to the scene. The different fields of wheat or grass, are represented by coloured floss or silk: the lands lying fallow by brown casimere. The various inequalities and risings of the ground are represented with great fidelity. In order that the spectator may the more easily discern the figures, &c., they being of necessity so minute, a number of glasses are fixed, by which means they are perceptible. The effect of the whole is truly powerful. This ingenious model employed Lieut. Siborn seven years.

Manners and Customs.

MR. ELLIOTT, in his late interesting Narrative of his Travels in the East, gives the following description of

A GREEK CHRISTENING AT THYATIRA.

"In the same quadrangle is the Greek church, where we attended the matins, which commence soon after sunrise. The interior of the building is handsome when compared with other similar temples in Asia Minor. A screen, covered with paintings of the virgin and child, and numerous saints, separates the vestry from the choir, which was then overflowing with people; but the service was performed with much irreverence and in ancient Greek, unintelligible to the congregation. As soon as this was concluded, every one present rushed up to the screen and began to kiss the pictures—first, the men who had occupied the nave, then the women who had filled the galleries; afterwards, the priest distributed from a large platter pieces of bread cut into cubes of half an inch, which were greedily snatched and eaten, the people crossing themselves repeatedly while scrambling and laughing in the most indecorous manner. Whether or not this was intended to be a celebration of the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper we did not ascertain.

"In the vestry was a copy of the New Testament bound in leather, and richly ornamented with silver. This volume was taken out at the conclusion of the ordinary service, and deposited, preparatory to a baptism, on a tripod in the middle of the church; before which was placed a large metal basin, about a foot high, with two very tall wax candles, and pitchers of hot and cold water. Small tapers, as thin as a crow-quill, were distributed to all the spectators, of whom there might have been sixty; the women standing on one side, the men on the other. Each lighted his taper and held it during the service. The two officiating ecclesiastics, having kissed their robes, put them on in the presence of the people; and one commenced, leaving the other to conclude, the sacred service. A girl of fourteen or fifteen years held the child, and acted as godmother. The minister was sometime engaged in making her repeat after him words which she evidently did not understand; while an old woman, equally wise, endeavoured to prompt her, pronouncing less distinctly what she conceived to be the syllables he uttered. The priest then placed the Testament before the vase, moved it over the water in the form of a cross, and pronounced a blessing: afterwards, he passed his finger three times through the water in the name of the Holy Trinity, then blew upon it, then poured in oil, always preserving in these acts the symbolical figure of the cross. Such was the

form of blessing the water. During this ceremony, a matron stripped the infant and delivered it into the hands of the minister, who held it up for some moments to the gaze of the congregation. He then dipped its little feet in the consecrated element, moving them in the form of a cross; and at length, placing it in the basin, poured water with his hands upon its head. This was repeated three times in the name of the Trinity; after which the infant was confirmed by having its eyes, nose, ears, mouth, hands, and feet anointed with the holy chrism, in token that its five senses were all to be dedicated to God; and it was made a partaker of the eucharist by its lips being touched with a consecrated wafer. During the ceremony, as we understood, extreme unction was likewise administered!"

LASCAR BURIAL.

CONSIDERABLE crowds were on Wednesday, October 3, 1838, attracted to the burial-ground adjoining Trinity Church, in Cannon-street-road East, to witness the singular ceremony of the interment of a Lascar who had recently arrived in this country by one of the East India ships, and who died shortly after the vessel had put into the St. Katherine's Dock. The body of the deceased, which was merely rolled up in a piece of thin calico, was placed on a rude and temporary bier formed of a few pieces of cane-wood, and decorated with several turbans unfolded, and carried on the shoulders of four of his countrymen, being followed by about twelve or fourteen Lascars. The singularity of such a procession, as well as the manner of those who formed it, which appeared any thing but serious or solemn (as most of them smoked their paper cigars, and indulged in what, to an English spectator, appeared great levity,) caused a considerable mob of persons to follow it from the vicinity of the docks, so that by the time it had reached Cannon-street several thousands had assembled, and it required the interference of the police to clear a passage to enable the bearers of the body and their followers to enter the church. On getting in, however, some considerable delay took place before the interment of the body could be effected, no preparation whatever having been previously made for its reception. It was some time before the Lascars could be prevailed upon to pay the 7s., which was demanded of them by the sextoness for the grave. They at length, however, paid the money, and the grave was in a short time prepared. The body was then handed to two of the Lascars, who had descended into the grave, and who placed it at full length on the back, while the remainder squatted themselves round the edge of the grave, which was about seven feet deep; and, with their hands uplifted, commenced chanting, in somewhat discordant tones, a prayer or

hymn; the two who were in the grave continued meanwhile to roll the corpse over and over. The eyes and the mouth of the deceased were open, and the rolling about of the body presented an appalling appearance. Various other ceremonies were subsequently gone through, and on a given signal the men in the grave, with astonishing agility, got out of it, and all commenced with the greatest rapidity to throw in the earth with their hands. The quickness with which they performed this was such, that the grave was filled in a few minutes; and having then used a shovel to settle and harden the earth on the top, the whole of the party left the ground smoking their cigars.

Anecdote Gallery.

PORTRAIT OF MADAME DE STAËL, BY
M. POZZO DI BORGIO.

"I EXPECTED that Madame de Staël would excite great curiosity in London. She belongs neither to the sex one loves, nor to that one esteems. She talks and writes like a man, but has acted all her life like a woman. As she carries every thing to extremes, those who are pleased with her must feel enchanted; those who are not will equally dislike her. The good qualities, faults, weaknesses, wit, and talents, of Madame de Staël, divided into proportionate doses, would have formed a population of amiable women; but all of them concentrated in one individual, have formed almost a monster. If one considers all her qualities in a mass, she confounds the strongest imagination, and awes the most experienced; but to one who comes on her at a moment when she only shows her shining points, she is really astonishing. Do not accuse me of betraying her when I speak of her to you with so much impartiality. One judges rather than loves her, although she has desired the contrary all her life."

"Madame de Staël, however, was considered very amiable, especially to her friends, and I am only speaking here of the effect which she produced at first sight on those spectators to whom she was a stranger. The dark mulatto complexion of Madame de Staël, her very original toilette, her entirely bare shoulders, either of which would have been pretty, but it did not agree with the other; in fact, the *tout ensemble* nearly realized the idea I had formed of the authoress of *Delphine* and *Corinne*. I almost expected to find one of these heroines in her who had so well drawn their characters, and could scarcely recover from my surprise. After the first moment, however, I gave her credit for a pair of fine and expressive eyes; still it seemed impossible to fall in love with such a face, and yet I was told that she had often inspired the tender passion."

"The prince was placed at the right of the Queen, and Madame de Staël at her left. The servant of the latter had placed on her napkin a little twig, which she was in the habit of turning about in her fingers while she was talking. The conversation was very animated, and it was droll to see her twisting the twig about while gesticulating. One might have thought that a fairy had given her this talisman, and that on that little branch depended all her genius."

No one who ever met the distinguished woman here described in society, but must have noticed her inexhaustible powers of conversation, displayed not less in the range of thought than in the ceaseless exertion of her lungs. It was our fortune once to be present at a conversation held by her with an eminent bookseller of our metropolis, remarkable for his sound judgment, and perspicuous and courteous taciturnity. The lady's flow of language and illustration, and she had a point to gain, reminded us strongly of Gray's simile—

"Good Gods! 'tis like a rolling river,
That murmuring flows, and flows for ever."

The single monosyllables, affirmatively introduced by her much-enduring interlocutor, seeming only to have the effect of pebbles in the current. In truth amongst the phlegmatic English she had the undoubted reputation of "talking to death." Her curiosity was not less remarkable. "Pray take my place," said a late English secretary to his friend, in evident alarm as she approached him, "I have forgotten my catechism."—"You will learn it all now, and I shall not soon forget my lesson," replied the other, quitting the spot in equal dismay.—*Foreign Quarterly Review, July, 1838.*

The Public Journals.

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY.

A Ballet Rehearsal at a Country Theatre.

THERE bounded on to the stage from some mysterious inlet, a little girl, in a dirty white frock, with tucks up to the knees, short trousers, sandaled shoes, white spencer, pink gauze bonnet, green veil, and curl papers, who turned a pirouette, cut twice in the air, turned another pirouette, then looking off at the opposite wing, shrieked, bounded forward to within six inches of the foot-lights, and fell into a beautiful attitude of terror, as a shabby gentleman, in an old pair of buff slippers, came in at one powerful slide, and, chattering his teeth, fiercely brandished a walking-stick. "They are going through the Indian Savage and the Maiden," said Mrs. Crummles.—"Oh!" said the manager, "the little ballet interlude. Very good, go on." The manager clapped his hands as a signal to proceed, and the savage, becoming

ferocious, made a slide towards the maiden, but the maiden avoided him in six twirls, and came down at the end of the last one upon the very points of her toes. This seemed to make some impression upon the savage, for, after a little more ferocity and chasing of the maiden into corners, he began to relent, and stroked his face several times with his right thumb and four fingers, thereby intimating that he was struck with admiration of the maiden's beauty. Acting upon the impulse of this passion, he (the savage) began to hit himself severe thumps in the chest, and to exhibit other indications of being desperately in love, which being rather a prosy proceeding, was very likely the cause of the maiden falling asleep; whether it was or not, asleep she did fall, sound as a church, on a sloping bank, and the savage perceiving it, leant his left ear on his left hand, and nodded sideways, to intimate to all whom it might concern that she was asleep, and no shamming. Being left to himself, the savage had a dance, all alone, and just as he left off the maiden woke up, rubbed her eyes, got off the bank, and had a dance, all alone, too—such a dance that the savage looked on in ecstasy all the while, and when it was done plucked from a neighbouring tree some botanical curiosity, resembling a small pickled cabbage, and offered it to the maiden, who at first wouldn't have it; but, on the savage shedding tears, relented. Then the savage jumped for joy; then the maiden jumped for rapture at the sweet smell of the pickled cabbage. Then the savage and the maiden danced violently together, and, finally, the savage dropped down on one knee, and the maiden stood on one leg on his other knee, thus concluding the ballet, and leaving the spectators in a state of pleasing uncertainty whether she would ultimately marry the savage, or return to her friends.

THE DOLLY DUSTERIAN DIARY.

Munde, Jinnavery 20, 18—. I opn mi knew running kopy buk, with the intension of putting down what cums uppermost; and as my entranse into Mrs. —'s servis may, for wot one Nose of one's life, becum an important feature on the Face of it, I shall rite down all that passed to-da. Its unnesry to menshun the paineful parting I had with my good step-mother, God Blesser! though I must not omit the memrable fact that Morris, for the first time in his life, shuke hands hartily with me, gave me a shilling, wished me "good Buy," and threw his old hobnailed shoe after me, for lue, as he said, but which gave my ankle such a chip with its heavy Sole as will take some time to Heel.

Wen I noct at Mrs. —'s door, with teers in my eyes, this morning, Mr. — himself opnd it; and as soon as I tolled him

my busyness, he good umordly smiled, tuke my and, and sade, "my deer girl, yuve had no brekfast."

Now, Ide been so unappy at leving Mrs. Morris, that I sirtinly hadnt bin able to take any, and I blieve I was stamming out, "Yes—no," when he larfed and sade, "Ah, youve forgottin; go down Below and join Noah," as I understude him; and, without another word, he gave me a push down the stares, and wauked into the parlor.

On entering the kitchen, I xpected to find an old man, but was sirprised to see only a gal about a yeere or 2 older than myself. She stared at me a minnit, and then, with a kind of harf-nod (either ment as a sine of welcum, or kaused by a difikilty in swallering a triangularer krust), she pushed a chare to me, handed a Large basin of tee, and with a kros ireish aksent, told me to be "Sated." I thentkr her, and sade a gentlema had sent me down to brekfast with Noah.

"Noah!" screamed the gal, speaking in her te-cup before she cond git it from her mouth—"Wot d'ye mane by that? My name's No-r-r-r-ah. My well-made Ann-sisters desinded in a strate line from that good Man of the First Water; but Ime not kwite such a tabip of the ould ark as U take me 4."

I begd her pardn; and wishing to turn her thorts in another direkshun, I venchered to say, "You apeer to ave a kind master."

"Yes, sure," she replied, in a softer tone; "but, by the powers of Dill, as Nick's praste used to swear, it 'll be a fine morning when I can say that of misthress."

"Indeed," I exclaimed; "I hope you've no complaints against her?"

"Arruh, my dear," said Norah, with a wink, "sure you don't know what I do, or you wouldn't say that same. May be, my darlint, you think it nothing that she's such a complate famine! Faith, your appetite for her 'll fall off as you get more hungry."

"Hungry! famine! I don't understand you."

"Nor does she, by me sowl; but lucky it is I understand myself; or it's clane starved I'd been before now, and jist like her hash on a Monday—may be, you don't know that's all bones?"

Here, seizing upon the quartern loaf, with one swoop she severed a lump something like the top of Mrs. —'s old music-stool, and buttering it much after the style in which M'Adam's roads are mended, she cut it across, and showed her teeth at a slice of it, which instantly represented old London Bridge in miniature.

"I am very stupid," said I, when this operation was ended; "but I do not yet see why you call her a famine."

"You are right; you are stupid, mighty stupid. My darling, I call her a famine becase she starves every body."

"Starves every body! Why you seem to have a good breakfast before you."

"Don't I tell you, honey, that's becase I look out for myself? and then it's a small mite of help I get from master. But I see you don't understand political acconomy. Famine, my dear, doesn't ralely starve puple to death; but it make's 'em look nine ways for pratees, and ten before they find 'em."

This was said with warmth, and I saw it would not do to dispute the point; I therefore softly said, "I am sorry to hear this of mistress, for—"

"Misthress! Is it misthress you mane? Oh! then, you are my come-after, eh? Well, darlint, I wish you joy of your berth, as the ould gridiron said to the chop."

"I hope I shall not find my situation quite so hot," said I.

"Wo'n't you, darlint? quite, every bit as hot as the chops, dear! and by the time you lave this, you'll be jist as much reduced—jist as near the bone—not a bit of fat left."

"But if master's kind," said I, half frightened at her account, "that will be a comfort."

"Will it now?—divil a bit. No; it ought to be: but in this house every thing that ought to be a comfort is jist the other thing. Only let misthress hear him say a kind word to you, or let him tell her you don't wear your hair, or your cap, in the worst style possible (which I flatter myself is the case with Norah), and it's no more end there'll be to it than to a nate round dumpling. You'll hear of it every day of the wake, and Sunday into the bargain."

"Well—"

"Well," interrupted Norah, jumping up to answer the bell, "I can only say, as our dustmen generally do by the small beer, you'll find it all out."—*Fraser's Magazine.*

Popular Antiquities.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

THE late Bishop of Capua, M. Bruguiere, having been appointed vicar apostolic and head of the Catholic mission in Corea, traversed the most important parts of the Chinese empire, in the Chinese dress, and aided by Chinese Christians, to Tartary, before he could reach his destination. The journal of his travels has been published in the *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi* No. 50. In the course of his journey he passed the great wall, his description of which is somewhat at variance with that of preceding travellers:—"On the 7th of October, 1834, we arrived at the great wall, so highly extolled by those who know nothing about it, and so emphatically described by those who have never seen it. This and the other wonders of China

should only be seen in pictures to maintain their reputation. The great wall has nothing remarkable but its length, which is about 1,500 miles: its principal direction is from east to west; but a little to the north of Shanse it trends to the west-south-west. This rampart, formerly covered with bricks, which have tumbled down, forms the frontier of three or four provinces, each of which would in Europe be a considerable kingdom. In the plains and ravines it is a regular wall, faced with battlements between 30 and 40 ft. high; on the mountains I doubt if its height exceeds 10 ft.; indeed, on the heights it is a little more than a ridge of earth, flanked by numerous projections like redoubts, but there is no person to guard them. There are gates at regular intervals for the convenience of travellers, and the levy of transit duties. I passed through the gate called Chan Tehaku (Changkee kow)—it is that through which the Russians go on their road to Pekin. No one paid the least attention to me; the guards turned their backs, as if to give courage to me and my followers. Were a more rigorous watch kept, it would be easy to cross the wall in the mountains, or through the breaches which time has made."—*Asiatic Journal*.

THE TEMPLE OF CARNAC.

THE next morning, we visited the temples of Luxor and Carnac. The former is a most magnificent pile, architecturally considered, but otherwise the least interesting of the four great temples of Thebes. You originally entered between four gigantic statues of Rameses the Great, and two superb obelisks, of which one only remains—the French have carried off his brother, and every lover of antiquity must regret their separation. The obelisks, statues, and pyramidal towers, were additions by Rameses to the original edifice, founded by Amunoph the Third.

From the propyla and obelisks of this temple, an avenue, guarded by sphinxes, facing each other, extended northwards, to the great temple of Jupiter Ammon at Carnac, meeting it at right angles, the latter extending from west to east. The road we followed lay nearer the river, and led us through a comparatively small temple of Isis, that would have detained us longer in a less attractive neighbourhood, into the great court of Jupiter Ammon's temple, the noblest ruin at Thebes. A stupendous colonnade, of which one pillar only remains erect, once extended across this court, connecting the western propylon or gate of entrance, built by Sesostris, with that at its eastern extremity, leading to the grand Hall of Osirei, and the sanctuary.—We ascended the former;—the avenue of sphinxes, through which the god returned, in solemn procession, to his shrine at Carnac, after his annual visit to the Libyan suburb, ascends

to it from the river,—the same avenue traversed age after age by the conqueror, the poet, the historian, the lawgiver, the philosopher—Sesostris, Cambyzes, Homer, Herodotus, Thales, Anaxagoras, Solon, Pythagoras, Plato—and now the melancholy song of an Arab boy was the only sound that broke the silence; but that poor boy was the representative of an older and a nobler race than that of the Pharaohs.

Long did we gaze on the scene around and below us—utter, awful desolation! Truly, indeed, has No been "rent asunder!" The towers of the second, or eastern, propylon are mere heaps of stones, "poured down"—as prophecy and modern travellers describe the foundations of Samaria—into the court on one side, and the great hall on the other,—giant columns have been swept away like reeds before the mighty avalanche, and one hardly misses them. And that hall, who could describe it? Its dimensions, 170 ft. by 329,—the height of the central avenue of columns 66 ft., exclusive of their pedestals,—the total number of columns that supported its roof 134,—these particulars may give you some idea of its extent; but of its grandeur and beauty—none. Every column is sculptured, and all have been richly painted. The exterior walls, too, are a sculptured history of the wars of Osirei and Rameses.—How often I longed for J—, and A—, while examining these noble designs! except those I shall presently mention at Beit Wellee, I have seen nothing in Egypt that would interest them so much. In one corner, of especial interest, are represented the Jews captured by Shishak, and their king Rehoboam, with the hieroglyphical inscription "Jehouda Melek," "the king of the Jews."—This is the only reference to the Israelites found in Egyptian sculpture; many have wondered at finding no allusions to their residence in Egypt, but I think without cause, for, except the pyramids, the tombs in their vicinity, those of Beni Hassan and a few other remains, of but little interest, I do not believe that any monuments exist, coeval with Moses and the Exodus.—*Lord Lindsay's Travels*.

BUONAPARTIANA.

THE following speech was delivered by Napoleon, to the Legislative body, on the opening of the Session, December 3, 1809.—"Since your last Sessions, I have reduced Aragon and Castile to submission, and driven from Madrid the fallacious government formed by England. I was marching upon Cadiz and Lisbon, when I was under the necessity of treading back my steps, and planting my eagles on the ramparts of Vienna. Three months have been the rise and termination of this fourth Punic war. Accustomed to the devotedness and courage of my armies, I

must, nevertheless, under these circumstances, acknowledge the particular proofs of affection which my soldiers in Germany have given me. The genius of France conducted the English army: it has terminated its projects in the pestilential marshes of Walcheren. In that important period I remained four hundred leagues distant, certain of the new glory which my people would acquire, and of the grand character they would display; my hopes have not been deceived. I owe particular thanks to the citizens of the departments of the Pas de Calais and the North. Frenchmen! every one that shall oppose you, shall be conquered and reduced to submission: your grandeur shall be increased by the hatred of your enemies. Having the force and energy of the Hercules of the ancients, you possess the means of attaining to years of glory and prosperity. I have united Tuscany to the Empire; the Tuscans were worthy of it; by the mildness of their character; by the attachment their ancestors have always shown us; and by the services they have rendered to European civilization. History pointed out to me the conduct I ought to pursue towards Rome. The Popes, since they became sovereigns of part of Italy, have constantly been the enemies of every preponderating power in the Peninsula: they have employed their spiritual power to injure it. It was evident, then, that the spiritual influence exercised in my States by a foreign sovereign was contrary to the independence of France, and to the dignity and safety of my throne; but, as I acknowledge the necessity of the spiritual influence of the descendants of the first of the pastors, I could not conciliate these grand interests, without annulling the donative of the French Emperors, my predecessors, and by uniting the Roman States to France. By the Treaty of Vienna, those kings and sovereigns who are my allies, have given me so many proofs of their constancy and friendship, that they have acquired and shall receive a fresh increase of territory. Through the acquisition of the Illyrian Provinces, the frontiers of my great Empire stretch to the Save; and, being contiguous to the Empire of Constantinople, I shall find myself in a situation to watch over the first interests of my commerce in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, and the Levant. I will protect the Porte, should she withdraw herself from the fatal influence of England; and I shall know how to punish her, if she suffer herself to be governed by cunning and perfidious counsels. I have endeavoured to give the Swiss nation a new proof of my esteem, by annexing to my titles, that of their Mediator; and thus, at the same time, putting an end to any uneasiness that may have spread among that brave people. Holland, being placed between England and France, is bruised by them both; yet, she is the de-

bouché of the principal arteries of my Empire. Changes will become necessary; the safety of my frontiers, and the well understood interests of the two countries, imperiously require them. Sweden has lost, through her alliance with England, after a disastrous war, the finest and most important of her provinces. Happy would it have been for that nation, if the wise prince who now governs it, had ascended the throne some years sooner. This example proves anew to kings, that the alliance of England is the surest presage of ruin. My friend and ally, the Emperor of Russia, has united to his vast Empire, Finland, Moldavia, Wallachia, and a district of Galicia; I am not jealous of any thing that can produce good to that Empire. My sentiments for its illustrious sovereign are in unison with my policy. When I shall show myself beyond the Pyrenees, the frightened Leopard will fly to the ocean, to avoid shame, defeat, and death. The triumph of my arms will be the triumph of the genius of good over that of evil; and of moderation, order, and morality, over civil war, anarchy, and oppression. My friendship and protection will, I hope, restore tranquility and happiness to the people of Spain."

There was no point of warfare (says Colonel Napier) that more engaged the attention of Napoleon, than the care of his sick and wounded; and, being monarch as well as general, he furnished his hospitals with every requisite. Under his fostering care, Baron Larrey, organized the establishment called the *Ambulance*, which were wagons of a peculiar structure, well horsed, and served by men who were trained, and incorporated as soldiers, and subject to a strict discipline. Being rewarded for their courage and devotion, they were always at hand; and, whether in action or on a march, ready to pick up and carry off wounded men; and the astonishing rapidity with which the French soldiers, who were wounded, disappeared from a field of battle, attested the excellence of the institution.

When Marshal Mortier moved down to Placentia with his corps, the senior surgeon of the hospital went out to meet him, in hopes of making some terms favourable to the sick. Mortier having agreed that the medical men should not be considered as prisoners; and, after asking how many sentinels he required, ordered a competent guard. On entering the town he visited the hospital; when, on perceiving that the men were without beds, he ordered them to supply themselves immediately from the natives, to the complement of one bed for each man; it was immediately done. He next ordered his Commissary to issue a full ration of wine, bread, and meat, to the sick every day, which was accomplished with very little difficulty; though, before the arrival of the French, they

found it very difficult to obtain a scanty supply.

An only child, and the sole representative of a long line of ancestors, being drawn as a recruit, the father, willing to make any sacrifice, rather than lose the society of his son, made repeated applications to have the youth exempted; and, at last, offered in the presence of Buonaparte, to raise, equip, and mount, at his own expense, a squadron of cavalry, provided his child was restored to him. "Your son has been drawn," said Napoleon, "and he must go with me; but do not fret, old man; for, if he conducts himself well, and shows that he possesses talents, I will make a general of him; so go home, and leave him and his fortunes to my keeping." The young man and his fortunes were left to the keeping of the Emperor, but, during the first action in which he was engaged, he was killed by a musket ball.

The first time I saw Napoleon (says a recent writer), was in 1815, after his return from Elba. On his first arrival, the palace was surrounded by immense crowds from morning till night; the short interval of peace had drawn a great number of foreigners to Paris, many of whom were eager to see the Emperor, who had become an object of curiosity, in consequence of the unparalleled boldness of the adventure which he had just accomplished, and the desperate struggle which evidently awaited him. At a review of the troops which took place in the Place du Carrousel, the greetings with which he was received, and the shouts of *Vive l'Empereur*, were of the most enthusiastic description. Napoleon rode through the ranks, occasionally taking off his hat, and bowing to the assembled thousands. After riding up and down for some time, he dismounted, and stood fronting the troops, where he was occasionally mixed with the crowd, his position being in the same line as the spectators. Though the soldiers of Napoleon often grumbled at things which they thought ought to have been done differently, yet they thoroughly believed that the Emperor meant every thing for their advantage. At the same time, he never testified displeasure at any remarks that were made by his army. The same license was not assumed by the Parisians, though Napoleon never took offence at that which was said openly, and without any purpose of concealment.

When France was first invaded by the allies, and troubles were rapidly increasing upon the country, Napoleon, who was galloping through the streets, accompanied by a retinue of officers, was stopped by a crowd in one of the avenues to the Mûrché. The disasters of the country having filled every one with alarm, a great deal of murmuring was heard. An old woman, perceiving the

Emperor opposite her stall, took it into her head to give him a lecture upon politics, which attracted the attention of those around. Napoleon having listened to the old woman for about five minutes, told her to sell her cabbages, and leave him to fight the battles of the country.

The following is the list of the *Senatus-Consultus*, or decrees for the levy of men enacted during the reign of Napoleon, namely:—September 24, 1805, 80,000; April 7, 1807, 80,000; January 21, and September 10, 1808, 240,000; April 18, and October 5, 1809, 76,000; December 13, 1810, 160,000; December 20, 1811, 120,000; March 13, and September 1, 1812, 237,000; January 16, April 3, August 24, October 9, and November 11, 1813, 1,040,000; total 2,033,000; these were exclusive of the voluntary enlistments, the departmental guards, the 17,000 equipped horsemen which were offered in January, 1813, and the levies *en masse*, organised in 1814. The number of soldiers enrolled between September 24, 1805, at which time the French had a very large disposable force, and January 1814, are stated to have amounted to 3,000,000 men. In 1814, the effective force of the French troops, employed in active service, retreated, or prisoners of war, were estimated at 802,600 individuals. If we deduct this number from the 3,000,000, it appears that 2,197,400 men fell victims to war, in nine years, which was at the rate of 244,155 per annum. The following account of the war material which were captured from the French in 1812, 1813, and 1814, is extracted from a document published, July 12, 1814:—210 pieces of artillery of all sizes; 1,200,000 projectiles of all kinds; 600,000 muskets and other arms; 12,000 artillery-wagons; and 70,000 horses; the whole of which are valued at 250,000,000 francs.

Whatever might be the motives of Napoleon in his expedition into Russia (says Count P. de Segur), its principal object was to wrest Poland from Russia; its successful result would have been to retard the danger of a new invasion from the north, to weaken the torrent, and oppose to it a new dike; and how great a man, and what peculiar favourable circumstances were combined to promote the success of the enterprise. After fifteen hundred years of victories, the revolution of the fourth century, that of kings and nobles against nations, had just been surpassed by the revolution of the nineteenth, that of nations against nobles and kings. Napoleon was born of this conflagration: he appeared so completely to regulate and master it, that the whole momentous convulsion seemed only to be a natural accompaniment to his birth. He commanded the revolution as if he had been the genius of that dreadful element; and while she bowed submissively to

his voice, at the same time, as if ashamed of her excesses, she looked upon him as her offspring and her pride; and identifying herself with his glory, she united the obedient monarchies of continental Europe, to march at his signal and attempt to drive back Russia within her ancient limits. But even under such highly propitious circumstances, he was unable to prevail against nature. In the powerful effort which he made to ascend that steep acclivity, how much force was still wanting. After reaching the frozen regions of Europe, he was there hurled from his elevation; and the North, victorious over the South in its defensive conflict, as it was in the middle age in its war for conquest, now considers itself both unassailable and irresistible.

W. G. C.

The Gatherer.

A Churchwarden.—A medical gentleman was lately called in to attend the dying functionary, who was not conversant with expressions out of the vulgar tongue. "I have a great soreness in my breast," said the warden. "That arises," said the doctor, "from a febrile affection in the thorax. But, pray let me ask you, do you expectorate?"—"Expect a rate!" said the churchwarden, "No, sir, thank God, that parish business is settled—I made a rate last week."

Newspapers.—The largest collection known belonged to the late Dr. Burney, comprising a numerous and rare series of these periodicals from the year 1603 to 1818, amounting in the whole to 700 volumes, and valued at 1,000 guineas. These important documents for the illustration of history were purchased by the Government for the British Museum, and, together with complete sets of all the newspapers published from 1818 to the present time, consisting of more than 3,000 volumes, form a record of public events not to be paralleled in any other library in the world.

Nimrod says,—"The greatest stake on record, depending on a single heat, was 5,200 guineas. This was won by Dorimont, a horse, four years old, the property of the Earl of Upper Ossory, at Newmarket, in 1776. This fortunate animal, the Bay Middleton of that day, also won for his noble owner, the same season, in matches and sweepstakes, eight other races, making the sum, in hard cash, of 7,899 guineas, and the Grosvenor stakes and Clermont cup. The grand stakes already made to be run at Goodwood in 1839, has 23 subscribers at 300 sovereigns, half forfeit; 6,900*l.* if all run, but 4,000*l.* at the least.

Saving Banks.—As a proof of the increasing wealth of the labouring classes of the metropolis, and the utility of saving banks,

a reference to the Farringdon-street Saving Bank, which was established in June, 1837, by the Bishop of London, Sir Charles Price, and Mr. Alderman Harmer, will prove interesting. Since the commencement of the bank up to the last return, the sum of £11,643 7*s.* 1*d.* has been paid in, and the sum of £2,872 5*s.* 9*d.* drawn out, leaving a balance in favour of the bank of £8,771 1*s.* 4*d.* The number of depositors has increased from 315 to 4,915.

Ablution.—A duty somewhat too strictly inculcated in the Mahometan ritual, and sometimes too lazily observed in Christian practice. As a man may have a dirty body, and an undefiled mind, so may he have clean hands in a literal, and not in a metaphorical sense. All washes and cosmetics without, he may yet labour under a moral hydrophobia within. Pleasant to see an im-puritan of this stamp holding his nose, lest the wind should come between an honest scavenger and his gentility, while his own character stinks in the public nostrils. Oh, if the money and the pains that we bestow upon perfumes and adornments for the body, were applied to the purification and embellishment of the mind! Oh, if we were as careful to polish our manners as our teeth, to make our temper as sweet as our breath, to cut off our peccadilloes as to pare our nails, to be as upright in character as in person, to save our souls as to shave our chins, what an immaculate race should we become! Exteriorly, we are not a filthy people. We throw so much dirt at our neighbours, that we have none left for ourselves. We are only unclean in our hearts and lives. As occasional equalor is the worst evil of poverty and labour, so should constant cleanliness be the greatest luxury of wealth and ease.

Drunkenness.—A beastly, detestable, and often punished vice, in the ignorant lower orders, whose ebriety is thrust upon the public eye as they reel along the streets, but softened into "a glass too much," or being "a little elevated," when a well-educated gentleman is driven home, in his own carriage, in a state of insensibility, and put to bed by his own servants. The half-starved wretch, who finds in casual intoxication meat, drink, clothing, fuel, and oblivion, may be fined, or put in the stocks, because he cannot afford to conceal his offence; but the *bon vivant*, whose habitual intemperance has none of these excuses, shall escape with impunity, because he sins in a dining, instead of a tap-room.

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